

wherein the second set of bond pads is immediately adjacent to the first and third bond pads and there is a conductive trace coupling the first bond pad to the third bond pad. The Office states that Kameda teaches a conductive trace 3a coupling a first bond pad 5 to a third bond pad 11b in Figures 1-2, and at col. 3, lines 37-65. Applicants respectfully disagree.

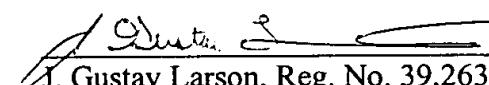
The Office has misinterpreted the teachings of Kameda. Trace 3a is formed at a first metal layer (21) that connects pad 11b to a buffer 2. Trace 3b is formed at a second metal layer 22, and is isolated from Trace 3a. Trace 3b connects pad 11a to a different buffer 2 then Trace 3a, as indicated by FIG. 3 and supported in the spec. Trace 6 is formed at a third metal layer (23), and is isolated from Traces 3a and 3b. Because the prior art, including Kameda, does not disclose or suggest a conductive trace coupling a first bond pad to a third bond pad as, claimed, claim 14 is necessarily non-obvious.

Since all of the pending independent claims are allowable, all of the dependent claims are likewise allowable. In addition, the dependent claims include further features not found in the cited references.

For the reasons put forth herein, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is requested, and early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action, and feels that a telephone conference would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


J. Gustav Larson, Reg. No. 39,263
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Simon, Galasso & Frantz, PLC
P.O. Box 26503
Austin, Texas 78755-0503
(512) 336-8957 (phone)
(512) 336-9155 (fax)